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Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2229

September 12, 1985

**HIGHLIGHTS:
CROP PROD.**

The following are the highlights of the Sept. 11 Crop Production report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture: Corn for grain production is forecast at a record high 8.47 billion bushels, up 11 pct. from last year and 3 pct. higher than the previous record set in 1982. Sorghum for grain production is forecast at a record high 1.14 billion bushels, up 9 pct. from Aug. 1 and 32 pct. above last year. Feed grain production - corn, sorghum, oats and barley - is expected to total 265 million metric tons, up 12 pct. from 1984. Soybean production is forecast at 2.06 billion bushels, 11 pct. above last year and 26 pct. above 1983. All wheat production is forecast at 2.40 billion bushels, 8 pct. less than 1984. (For state-by-state statistical info, call 202-447-2127.)

**CHINA -
A NET
EXPORTER?**

China's Deputy Minister of Commerce has reportedly stated that China will become a net exporter of grain this year for the first time, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Chinese consider soybeans a grain. China has been a major wheat importer over the past few years, but soaring production has allowed imports to be drastically reduced, and has made China the world's largest wheat producer.

**WORLD WHEAT
OUTPUT**

The world 1985/86 output projection for wheat was reduced almost 1 pct. from last month and almost 2 pct. from last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Declines were made in crop projections for all four major competitors, and all but Canada are expected to have lower crops than last year. With estimated 1985 U.S. production raised 1 pct. and export prospects lowered, the forecast of ending stocks was increased this month. The level of outstanding loans at the end of 1985/86 is expected to more than double.

**WORLD BEEF
PRODUCTION**

World beef and veal production is estimated to be up slightly in 1985, but is forecast to drop 1 million tons in 1986 due largely to expected lower output in the U.S. and the European Community. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. cattle numbers are expected to fall because of poor returns for cow-calf operators and the poor financial condition of the farm sector. For 1986, U.S. beef production is forecast to fall nearly 700,000 tons as a result of lower slaughter and lighter weights.

FARM CREDIT REPORT

The Summary Report of Condition and Performance of the Farm Credit System for the quarter ending June 30, 1985, was released by the Farm Credit Administration. For a copy, write Congressional and Public Affairs Division, Farm Credit Admin., 1501 Farm Credit Drive, McLean, VA 22101-5090. Or call 703/883-4056.

WEATHER WETS GRAIN

Grain harvests in France, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and Ireland have suffered from earlier wet weather resulting in possible quality problems for both barley and wheat. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this could result in European Community imports of high-quality malting barley from North America, but could also mean greater quantities of feed barley available for export in 1985/86 that may compete with U.S. coarse grains on the world market. Barley exports in 1984/85 were forecast at a record 7 million tons after an average of only 3.7 million in the previous three years.

U.S. EXPORTS - OCT.-JULY 1985

U.S. agricultural exports during Oct.-July 1985 totaled \$27.6 billion, down from the same period a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Export volume during the Oct.-July period amounted to 111.5 million tons, down more than 7 pct. from the 120.4 million exported during the first 10 months of the previous year. The largest declines during Oct.-July included soybean meal, soybeans, soybean oil, wheat, wheat flour, rice, tallow and cotton. Increases included grain sorghum, seeds, pulses, peanuts, cottonseed oil, tree nuts, beef and dairy products.

GLOBAL - COARSE GRAINS

The projected 1985/86 global output of coarse grains is up marginally from last month as a 3-pct. increase in the U.S. estimate more than offset the decline in projections of foreign output, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Large reductions were made in projected crops for Eastern Europe and China, mostly in corn. Canadian and U.S. export forecasts were reduced for 1984/85. For 1985/86, Soviet imports were dropped by 1 million tons. In the U.S., a higher carryin in 1985/86, a sharply higher corn crop estimate, and a 75-million-bushel reduction in exports led to an additional buildup in estimated carryout.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT TO CHINA

The Australian Wheat Board recently announced the sale of 800,000 tons of wheat to China, its first sale for the Oct.-Sept. 1985/86 shipment, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Australia now expects to ship about 1.3 million tons of wheat to China during 1985/86, compared with 2.3 million in 1984/85. Australian wheat sales to China now appear likely to be far below 1984/85 levels, which may indicate that other suppliers will have more opportunity to export wheat to China.

NOW SMILE, KILLER!

A one-minute screen test can accurately identify the Africanized bees. In this test, developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, bees are first screened in a one-minute procedure. The forewings of ten randomly-selected bees from a suspect colony are mounted on slides, projected onto a screen and measured. Wing sizes are then checked against a numbered chart that has preestablished measurements for each kind of bee. If there is still a slight suspicion that the bees are Africanized, further testing begins. The bees are weighed and their hind wings and legs are measured. The data is put into a computer which then gives the betting odds on whether or not the bees are Africanized.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER UPDATE... USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen focuses on the current weather and crop conditions in the U.S., including Hurricane Elena and its affect on agriculture. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (466)

EPA PROPOSES BAN ON DAMINOZIDE... Paul Lapsley of the Environmental Protection Agency talks about why the EPA is proposing to ban the pesticide Daminozide and how this ban could affect agriculture. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (467)

TAX REFORM ANALYSIS - I... USDA economist Ron Durst takes a look at the major provisions in the tax reform proposal and their relationship to agriculture. Vic Powell interviews. (468)

TAX REFORM ANALYSIS - II... USDA economist Ron Durst continues his discussion on the impact of the President's tax reform plan on farming. Vic Powell interviews. (469)

RIDGE TILLAGE... John Gregory, University of Illinois, comments on how ridge tillage can be a big advantage in decreasing production costs. Gary Beaumont interviews. (470)

TIMBER SALES
HALTED

The award of timber sale contracts in national forests in Oregon and Washington, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service will be halted for the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. This temporary action meets the requirements of the Federal Timber Contract Payment Modification Act of 1984. This act allows timber companies to buy out of unprofitable timber sale contracts, and requires that the Forest Service have no more than 12.3 billion board feet of timber under sales contracts at the end of the fiscal year in the Pacific Northwest Region.

BLOCK ON
THE RANGE

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block has announced that he and Sec'y of Interior Donald Hodel will speak at the National Range Conference in Oklahoma City, Nov. 6-8. Block will be the keynote speaker at the opening session Nov. 6. Hodel will address the group at a luncheon Nov. 7, on "Opportunities for the Future on Public Range." For additional information, write: Douglas Sellars, c/o National Range Conference, P.O. Box 2890, Wash., DC 20013.

1985-CROP
SOYBEAN
RATES

The basic 1985-crop soybean rates are based on the national average loans and purchase rate of \$5.02 per bushel, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An exception is made for foreign material. Copies of the rates announced Sept. 11 were sent to State ASCS offices and also are available from the Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Wash., DC 20013.

FARMER
COOPS -
RECORD SALES

The business volume of the nation's farmer cooperatives in 1984 increased 9.6 pct., but net margins declined 3.2 pct., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The rise in business volume was attributed mostly to larger quantities of grain marketed and fertilizer sold by cooperatives.

OFF MIKE

We have confirmation that showing animals at fairs can be hazardous to your health. Thanks to Jack McConnell (KOLT, Scottsbluff, NB) who sent us a clipping from the Des Moines Register, we know that show animals do step on their handlers' feet, and both Iowa Gov. Robert Ray and Craighton Knau (KMA, Shenandoah, IA) were limping after the Governor's Charity Steer Show when their animals did just that. As the man says, "I don't get any respect!" ... Same paper also reported that Bob Quinn (WHO, Des Moines, IA) showed the reserve grand champ hog, entered by WHO ... Speaking of KMA, that station's vice president and manager Andy Anderson, along with NAFB President Johnnie Hood (WPTF/So. Farm Net, Raleigh, NC) and Jim Mills (NAFB Sales/Marketing Dir., Herndon, VA) helped this writer explore some of the little known areas of the Shenandoah Valley Golf Course in the Shenandoah Mountains of Virginia last Saturday. They finished up a successful sales marketing trip to New York City late Friday and felt the need to do a bit of turf research. And we did...lots...in big chunks at times ... Incidentally, earlier in the week Johnnie Hood joined a number of farm broadcasters in the Cotton, Inc./Cotton Board annual cotton event for media (one year radio/TV, one year print). Others on the tour were Roy Isom (KMJ, Fresno, CA), George Gatley (Western Agri.Radio Nets, Yuma, AZ), Jim Stewart (KFYO, Lubbock, TX), Joe Ellis (Texas St. Agribus Net, Dallas), Radonna Long (KGNC, Amarillo, TX), Buddy Sanders (WMC, Memphis, TN), Ray Wilkinson and Dix Harper (WRAL-TV, Tobacco Net, Raleigh, NC), John Winfield (Mississippi Net, Jackson) and Erik Ness (New Mexico Farm Bureau Radio/TV). Cotton, Inc.'s Jack Childs and Cotton Board's John Davies were the ramrods for the tour ... Welcome visitor in the office this morning: Krit Stubblefield (Kentucky Agri-Net, Louisville). He had a few minutes before a scheduled interview with Sec'y of Agric John Block.

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1476...Can farmers who use conservation tillage really save anything in the process? Brenda Curtis travels to Tennessee to talk to farmers who are using this farming method.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1465...USDA news highlights; U.S. wheat team visits USSR; Farm machinery woes; The toxin testers; A world full of rice.

CONSUMER TIME #958...Think zinc; Step-parenting; Brand name loyalty; Debit cards; Wash those dishes!

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Sept. 18, Agricultural outlook report; Thurs, Sept. 19, Sugar and sweeteners outlook; Fri, Sept. 20, Dairy outlook, Citrus production, Catfish situation, World ag. outlook, Cattle on feed, Hogs and pigs, Red meat production (possibly there may be a story from the "Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector" report depending on its contents); Tues, Sept. 24, Eggs, chickens, turkeys, Crop and weather update; Wed, Sept. 25, Cropland situation.


JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
Radio-Television Division